

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

SECRET STATE 215672

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 5235 ACTION GENEVA INFO SECSTATE 10 SEPT

QUOTE

SECRET JIDDA 5235

EXDIS

STATE FOR SECRETARY INGERSOLL

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SA, US

SUBJ: MESSAGE FOR MINISTER YAMANI

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR
AKINS TO AHMAD ZAKI YAMANI, SAUDI MINISTER OF PETROLEUM,
WHO IS PROBABLY STAYING AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL:

A. "SORRY TO HAVE MISSED YOU IN JIDDA. THE DEPARTMENT
HAS JUST INSTRUCTED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR 'CONCEPT
OF
COMPACT AND TIGHTLY FOCUSED MINI-CONFERENCE' IS
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ATTRACTIVE. 'WE WOULD WANT IT TO BE IN AS LOW-KEY AS

POSSIBLE TO AVOID RAISING EXPECTATIONS OR, CONVERSELY, A SENSE OF FAILURE OR DESPAIR IF MEETING DID NOT RESULT IN AGREEMENT." THE INSTRUCTION GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE 'LOW-KEY APPROACH WOULD ALSO SERVE TO DIMINISH SENSE OF DRAMA OF CONFRONTATION WHICH WE WISH TO AVOID.'

B. "I THINK THIS CORRESPONDS EXACTLY WITH YOUR SUGGESTION.

C. "IF YOU ARE COMING BACK TO JIDDA BEFORE GOING TO THE STATES WE CAN DISCUSS DETAILS THEN, OTHERWISE PERHAPS WE CAN MEET IN WASHINGTON. YOUR OFFICE TELLS US YOU ARE COMING BACK AROUND THE TENTH OF RAMADAN, I.E. SEPTEMBER 26, BUT I RECALLED YOU WERE TO GIVE A SPEECH IN THE STATES ON SEPTEMBER 24 AND THEN MIGHT STAY ON. I'M LEAVING FOR DENVER SEPTEMBER 24 AND SHOULD BE IN WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 29. I'LL BE STAYING WITH BILL SIMON.

D. "ZAKI, MY FRIEND, I THINK THIS, ALONG WITH MY STRONG APPROACH TO KING FAISAL AND OUR APPROACHES TO ALL OTHER OPEC PRODUCERS ON PRICES, SHOWS CONCLUSIVELY THAT THE U.S. REALLY WANTS TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION, AND THAT OUR DESIRE TO REDUCE PRICES IS SINCERE. KEEP THINKING OF THE STARVING AND FREEZING WIDOWS AND ORPHANS IN INDIA, ITALY, AND ENGLAND. AND GOOD LUCH IN VIENNA.

E. NEW SUBJECT: "ROBERT ABOUD, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO IS HERE NOW AND WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO THE MID-AMERICA GROUP ON SEPTEMBER 28. HE SAYS, AND I THINK HE'S RIGHT, THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS BODIES IN MIDDLE-AMERICA AND IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO SPEAK TO THEM. HE NOTES THAT YOU'RE SPEAKING TO THE ROTARY CLUB AT NOON, SEPTEMBER 24, AND ASKS NOW IF YOU COULD COME EARLY AND SPEAK TO HIS GROUP THE EVENING OF THE 23RD, OR STAY OVER AND SPEAK THE EVENING OF THE 25TH. (SENATOR STEVENS IS GIVING A DINNER THE 24TH AND THIS WOULD TAKE AWAY AT LEAST PART OF YOUR POTENTIAL AUDIENCE ON THAT DATE.) COULD YOU LET ME KNOW YOUR DECISION THROUGH OUR MISSION IN GENEVA OR OUR EMBASSY IN VIENNA?"

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2. FOR MISSION GENEVA: PLEASE ADVISE WHEN THE MESSAGE IS GIVEN AND WHAT RESPONSE, IF ANY, THERE IS FROM YAMANI.
AKINS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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